

It's Bournemouth!

JOHN DELANEY, former Wycombe Wanderers centre half and captain, is in line for a return against his old club on December 14. For the Blues have received one of the most exciting draws in the F.A. Cup — a second round home tie against A.F.C. Bournemouth (writes **Stuart Earp**).

Delaney, or 'Big John' as he was affectionately known at Wycombe, decided to accept an offer from Bournemouth at the end of the 1972-73 season and has now established himself as the number one centre back at Dean Court. His chance to join the 'pro' ranks came after the only other meeting between these two sides — a friendly in March '73.

Bournemouth fielded no less than nine first team players on that occasion and were out to avenge a 10-0 thrashing the Blues had dishied out to their youth team in an earlier friendly. Including several players who are now with Norwich (Phil Boyer, John Benson and Mel Machin for instance), the "Cherries" fell to a shock 1-2 defeat. Kenny Swain, who later signed for Chelsea scored both Blues' goals while it was only an Ian Rundle own goal in the last minute that made the scoreline closer than the actual game indicated.

Incredibly, however, not one of those Bournemouth players are left in the side. Goalkeeper Davies, Machin, Powell, Benson, Howe and Boyer all joined manager John Bond at Norwich, while the other members of the team moved to different clubs.

Bond's departure to the then First Division Norfolk club, taking with him many of the choice players, saw Bournemouth's hopes of promotion slowly dwindle away. Coach Trevor Hartley took over as caretaker manager until the end of the season when the club

finished in mid-table — somewhat disappointing considering they were in line for promotion earlier in the term.

At the start of this season, Bournemouth once again set the pace with four victories in their first six matches. They beat Tranmere 1-0 away, Gillingham 2-0 at home, Hereford 1-0 away and Brighton 2-0 at home. Their only defeat during that spell was 1-0 at Colchester while they drew 0-0 at home to Southend.

It was when they visited Preston North End that things began to go sour on home. They went down to a heavy 2-5 defeat that day and had two players sent off.

In their next match, they lost 0-2 at home to Wrexham and then 0-1 at Blackburn. Those two defeats were halted with the club's best result of the season — a 4-0 home triumph over Malcolm Allison's Crystal Palace but after that, the rot set in again. They drew 0-0 at Chesterfield, lost 0-1 at Watford, 0-1 at home to Grimsby, 1-2 at home to Charlton, 1-2 against Port Vale and 0-2 at Walsall. That means a record of only one victory in 10 matches and their latest league success at home to Bury (2-1) must have been extremely welcome.

Following that victory, Bournemouth made short work of Sussex League amateurs Southwick in the last round of the Cup, thrashing them 5-0 in front of a 5,000 plus gate. Goddard scored two goals in the first half, added another after the interval and two further scores from Greenhalgh and Hague completed the rout.

In the League Cup, John Delaney came into his own. After three games with Gillingham in the first round (1-1 away, 1-1 home and 2-1 at Brentford), they then played Hartlepool four times before

finally going out of the competition. Delaney scored in all three games but was then dropped for the fourth, Bournemouth losing 0-1 away after a 1-1 home draw, 2-2 away draw and 1-1 home draw again.

Looking at the "new" Bournemouth team, they have a mixture of young talent and experience. Goddard, for instance, the hat-trick hero on Saturday, is only 17 years old and tops the goalscoring charts with eight this term. Last year's reserve goalkeeper Baker is now a regular first teamer while the club signed on Payne and Howard from Norwich, Rickard and Hague from Plymouth, John Wingate from Exeter, and John O'Rourke from Luton. O'Rourke is by far the most experienced member of the team, having played for no less than six different clubs, amongst them Q.P.R., Middlesbrough, Chelsea, Ipswich and Coventry.

But even his experience has not been enough to lift the club out of their present poor league position. They are currently fifth from the foot of the table with two wins, a draw and five defeats from their away matches. In that time, only four goals have been scored while 10 conceded.

It is that poor away record that must put Wycombe in with a chance of breaking through into the third round for the first time ever in their 80 year history. Unlike last year when they met an up-and-coming side in Peterborough United, Bournemouth are undoubtedly struggling for their form and will be anxious to do well in the F.A. Cup. Their gates have slumped badly this term and they now attract around 5-6,000.

Their visit to Loakes Park could well bring in between 10,000 to 15,000 spectators.

Understandably, local reaction to the draw was one of elation. Blues secretary Bert Crump said, "If we play as we did against Cheltenham on Saturday we're in with a chance. And the crowd must be approaching the 10,000 mark."

Manager Brian Lee described the draw as 'near perfection.' "We must have a 50-50 chance."

Dave Bullock, who came into the side for the injured Gary Hand against Cheltenham was thrilled with the draw and eager for a chance to play against his former centre back partner John Delaney. "I'd love to play against John again. Now I've got to get fit in time, then I'll be rooting for him."

John Delaney had no doubts about the tie when I spoke to him on Monday. "We've hit a bad patch recently but I feel now that we have turned the corner. We had no problems against Southwick on Saturday. I'm well pleased with the draw."

"The pitch is unlikely to worry the players. When I heard the draw, I told them that the only problem is in the mind. All they have to do is get out there and play."

"On what I've heard, Wycombe aren't as good as they have been in the past but they are bound to give us a game."

Another team obviously pleased with their draw is Ilford, Wycombe's opponents in the F.A. Challenge Trophy on Saturday. They are home to Southend and could well go through, while another team in with a chance of making the magical third round is Wimbledon. They face the winners of the Swansea v Kettering match at home.

If Hitchin beat Cambridge tonight (Tuesday) they face Hereford

at home while Tooting visit Plymouth if they beat Crystal Palace tomorrow. Leatherhead or Bishop's Cleeve visit Colchester while Weymouth or Peterborough play Charlton at home.

F.A. Cup Second Round draw: Stockport or Stafford v Halifax, Scunthorpe or Altrincham v Crewe or Gillingham, Bishop Auckland v Blyth Spartans or Preston, Shrewsbury or Wigan v Mansfield, Blackburn v Darlington, Rochdale or Marine v Tranmere, Hitchin or Cambridge Utd. v Hereford or Gillingham, Bishops Cleeve or Leatherhead v Colchester, Brighton v Brentford, Ilford v Southend, Wimbledon v Swansea or Kettering, Plymouth v Tooting or Crystal Palace, Swindon v Newcastle, Boro or Middlesbrough, Newport Co. v Ashford or Walsall, Peterborough or Weymouth v Charlton, Wycombe Wanderers v Bournemouth, Chesterfield v Doncaster, Rotherham v Northampton, Grimsby v Bury, Hartlepool v Port Vale or Lincoln.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION III

	HOME					Goals	AWAY					Goals	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	18	8	2	0	17	5	3	2	3	8	8	26	
Swindon	20	8	2	1	18	9	1	5	3	12	19	25	
Colchester	20	6	3	2	21	9	2	4	3	12	13	23	
Charlton	19	7	2	1	26	14	3	1	5	9	15	23	
Peterborough	19	6	3	0	12	4	3	2	5	9	17	23	
C Palace	19	7	2	1	21	11	2	2	5	7	16	27	
Hereford	20	6	3	2	19	8	2	2	5	6	15	21	
Southend	20	6	3	2	18	9	2	2	5	7	11	21	
Preston	20	7	1	2	16	5	2	2	6	12	17	21	
Plymouth	19	7	2	0	16	5	2	1	7	11	20	24	
Watford	20	5	4	1	15	11	1	5	4	13	20	21	
Wrexham	18	5	2	1	18	8	2	4	4	12	15	20	
Walsall	19	6	2	1	19	5	1	6	5	12	18	20	
Port Vale	19	6	3	0	17	9	1	5	5	11	18	20	
Bury	20	4	3	2	13	6	2	2	7	8	15	17	
Chesterfield	19	4	4	2	16	12	2	0	7	13	20	15	
Grimsby	19	5	1	3	18	13	2	1	7	9	23	16	
Halifax	19	4	2	2	16	11	0	4	5	6	19	16	
Huddersfield	17	4	2	4	12	8	2	1	6	6	15	16	
Bournemouth	17	4	1	4	12	8	2	1	5	6	10	14	
Gillingham	19	4	3	2	14	9	0	3	7	9	19	14	
Brighton	19	4	4	1	13	11	1	0	9	6	22	14	
Tranmere	18	5	1	3	15	9	0	2	7	7	16	13	
Aldershot	18	5	1	3	16	11	0	3	7	4	17	13	